

House File 96 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 96

BY RUFF

A BILL FOR

1 An Act establishing a supplementary weighting program for
2 shared operational functions of school districts and area
3 education agencies.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 257.11, Code 2013, is amended by adding
2 the following new subsection:

3 NEW SUBSECTION. 6A. *Shared operational functions —*
4 *increased student opportunities — budget years beginning in 2014*
5 *through 2019.*

6 a. (1) In order to provide additional funding to increase
7 student opportunities and redirect more resources to student
8 programming for school districts that share operational
9 functions, a supplementary weighting of two hundredths per
10 pupil shall be assigned to pupils enrolled in a district that
11 shares with a political subdivision one or more operational
12 functions of a curriculum director, school administration
13 manager, mental health therapist, school counselor, or school
14 librarian, or one or more operational functions in the areas
15 of superintendent management, business management, human
16 resources, transportation, or operation and maintenance for
17 at least twenty percent of the school year. The additional
18 weighting shall be assigned for each discrete operational
19 function shared. The operational function sharing arrangement
20 does not need to be a newly implemented sharing arrangement
21 to receive supplementary weighting under this subsection.
22 However, to receive supplementary weighting under this
23 subsection for an ongoing operational function sharing
24 arrangement that began before July 1, 2014, the district
25 shall submit information to the department documenting the
26 cost savings directly attributable to the shared operational
27 functions and describe the district's consideration of
28 additional shared operational functions.

29 (2) For the purposes of this section, "*political*
30 *subdivision*" means a city, township, county, school corporation,
31 merged area, area education agency, institution governed by the
32 state board of regents, or any other governmental subdivision.

33 b. School districts that share operational functions with
34 other school districts are not required to be contiguous school
35 districts. If two or more districts sharing operational

1 functions are not contiguous to each other, the districts
2 separating those districts are not required to be a party to
3 the operational functions sharing arrangement.

4 *c.* Supplementary weighting pursuant to this subsection
5 shall be available to a school district for a maximum of
6 five years during the period commencing with the budget year
7 beginning July 1, 2014, through the budget year beginning July
8 1, 2019. The minimum amount of additional weighting for which
9 a school district shall be eligible is an amount equivalent to
10 ten additional pupils, and the maximum amount of additional
11 weighting for which a school district shall be eligible is
12 an amount equivalent to forty additional pupils. Receipt of
13 supplementary weighting by a school district pursuant to this
14 subsection for more than one year shall be contingent upon
15 the annual submission of information by the district to the
16 department documenting cost savings directly attributable to
17 the shared operational functions. Criteria for determining
18 the number of years for which supplementary weighting shall
19 be received pursuant to this subsection, subject to the
20 five-year maximum, and for determining qualification of
21 operational functions for supplementary weighting shall be
22 determined by the department by rule, through consideration of
23 long-term savings by the school district or increased student
24 opportunities.

25 *d.* Supplementary weighting pursuant to this subsection
26 shall be available to an area education agency for a maximum
27 of five years during the period commencing with the budget
28 year beginning July 1, 2014, through the budget year beginning
29 July 1, 2019. The minimum amount of additional funding for
30 which an area education agency shall be eligible is fifty
31 thousand dollars, and the maximum amount of additional funding
32 for which an area education agency shall be eligible is two
33 hundred thousand dollars. The department of management shall
34 annually set a weighting for each area education agency to
35 generate the approved operational sharing expense using the

1 area education agency's special education cost per pupil amount
2 and foundation level. Receipt of supplementary weighting
3 by an area education agency for more than one year shall be
4 contingent upon the annual submission of information by the
5 district to the department documenting cost savings directly
6 attributable to the shared operational functions. Criteria
7 for determining the number of years for which supplementary
8 weighting shall be received pursuant to this subsection,
9 subject to the five-year maximum, and the amount generated by
10 the supplementary weighting, and for determining qualification
11 of operational functions for supplementary weighting shall be
12 determined by the department by rule, through consideration of
13 long-term savings by the area education agency or increased
14 student opportunities.

15 *e.* The amount of any supplementary weighting originally
16 received under this subsection shall be reduced by an
17 additional twenty percent from the original amount for each
18 subsequent budget year that supplementary weighting may be
19 received.

20 *f.* This subsection is repealed effective July 1, 2020.

21

EXPLANATION

22 This bill enacts Code section 257.11, new subsection 6A, to
23 allow supplementary weighting for school districts and area
24 education agencies that share operational functions. The
25 bill is similar to the supplementary weighting provisions for
26 shared operational functions in current Code section 257.11,
27 subsection 6, which is repealed effective July 1, 2014. The
28 bill provides supplementary weighting of two hundredths per
29 pupil enrolled in a district that shares with a political
30 subdivision one or more operational functions. Under the bill,
31 eligible shared operational functions include the operational
32 functions of a curriculum director, school administration
33 manager, mental health therapist, school counselor, or school
34 librarian, or one or more operational functions in the areas
35 of superintendent management, business management, human

1 resources, transportation, or operation and maintenance. To
2 be eligible for the supplementary weighting, the operational
3 function must be shared for at least 20 percent of the school
4 year.

5 Under the bill, the operational functions sharing
6 arrangement does not need to be a newly implemented sharing
7 arrangement to receive supplementary weighting. However, to
8 receive supplementary weighting under the bill for an ongoing
9 operational functions sharing arrangement that began before
10 July 1, 2014, the district must submit information to the
11 department of education documenting the cost savings directly
12 attributable to the shared operational functions and describe
13 the district's consideration of additional shared operational
14 functions.

15 The bill does not require school districts that share
16 operational functions with other school districts to be
17 contiguous school districts. In addition, if two or more
18 districts sharing operational functions are not contiguous to
19 each other, the districts separating those districts are not
20 required to be a party to the operational functions sharing
21 arrangement.

22 The supplementary weighting provided in the bill is
23 available to a school district for a maximum of five years
24 during the period commencing with the budget year beginning
25 July 1, 2014, through the budget year beginning July 1,
26 2019. The bill establishes a minimum amount and a maximum
27 amount of additional weighting for which a school district is
28 eligible. In order to receive the supplementary weighting for
29 more than one year, the school district must annually submit
30 information to the department documenting cost savings directly
31 attributable to the shared operational functions.

32 Under the bill, supplementary weighting is available to
33 an area education agency for a maximum of five years during
34 the period commencing with the budget year beginning July 1,
35 2014, through the budget year beginning July 1, 2019. The

1 bill establishes a minimum amount and a maximum amount of
2 additional weighting for which an area education agency is
3 eligible. In order to receive the supplementary weighting for
4 more than one year, the area education agency must annually
5 submit information to the department documenting cost savings
6 directly attributable to the shared operational functions. The
7 bill requires the department of management to annually set
8 a weighting for each area education agency to generate the
9 approved operational sharing expense using the area education
10 agency's special education cost per pupil amount and foundation
11 level.

12 The bill provides that supplementary weighting funding
13 received under Code section 257.11, new subsection 6A, for
14 shared operational functions shall be reduced by an additional
15 20 percent from the original amount each subsequent budget year
16 that the funding is received.

17 The bill provides that Code section 257.11, new subsection
18 6A, is repealed effective July 1, 2020.